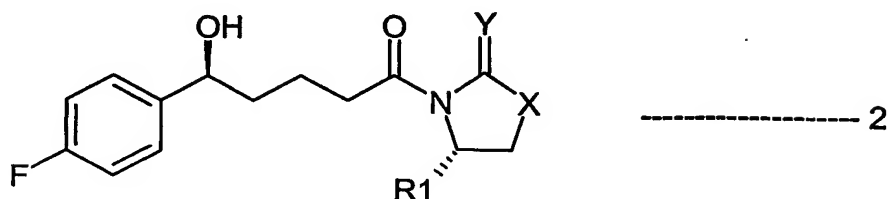


We claim:

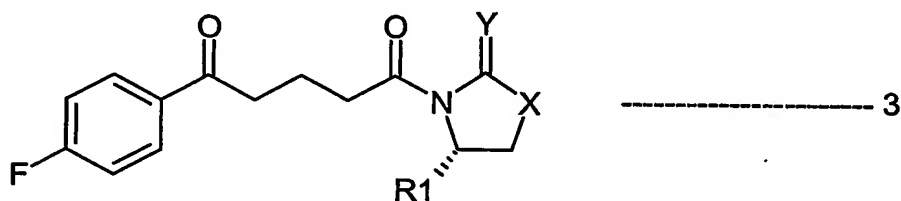
1) A process for the preparation of an alcohol of formula 2:



- 5 wherein X is O or S; Y is O, S or N(lower alkyl); and R is alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, unsubstituted or substituted naphthyl or lower alkoxy carbonyl, wherein substituents on phenyl and naphthyl are selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl and phenyl;

which comprises reducing the ketone of formula 3:

10



wherein X-, Y- and R1 are as defined above, with (-)-DIP chloride ((-)-β-chlorodiisopinocampheylborane).

- 2) A process according to claim 1, wherein X is O; Y is O; and R is alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl.
- 3) A process according to claim 1, wherein the compound of the formula 2 is 3-[(5S)-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-hydroxy-1-oxopentyl]-4-phenyl-2-oxazolidinone.
- 4) A process according to claim 1, wherein the reduction is carried out in a neutral organic solvent or a combination of the organic solvents.
- 5) A process according to claim 4, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of chloroalkanes such as methylene dichloride, chloroform, carbon tetrachloride and ethylene dichloride; carbocyclic aromatics such as toluene and benzene; ethers such as methyl tert-butyl ether, diethyl ether and isopropyl ether; heterocyclic compound such as

tetrahydrofuran; dimethylformamide; dimethylsulfoxide; alkanes such as pentane and hexane; and acetonitrile.

- 6) A process according to claim 4, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of methylene dichloride, chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, ethylene dichloride, toluene, benzene; methyl tert-butyl ether, diethyl ether, isopropyl ether, tetrahydrofuran, dimethylformamide, dimethylsulfoxide, pentane, hexane and acetonitrile.
- 7) A process according to claim 6, wherein the organic solvent is selected from toluene, diethyl ether, isopropyl ether, hexane, methylene dichloride and ethylene dichloride.
- 8) A process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out below the boiling temperature of the solvent.
- 9) A process according to claim 8, wherein the reaction is carried out between about -20°C and 40°C .
- 10) A process according to claim 9, wherein the reaction is carried out between about -10°C and 10°C .
- 11) A process according to claim 1, wherein at least about 0.3 moles of (-)-DIP chloride per mole of the keto compound of formula 3 is used.
- 12) A process according to claim 11, wherein about 0.5 to 10 moles of (-)-DIP chloride per mole of the keto compound of formula 3 is used.
- 13) A process according to claim 13, wherein about 0.8 to 5 moles of (-)-DIP chloride per mole of the keto compound of formula 3 is used.